

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 remain pending in the present application.

The undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiner Swerdlow for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on June 14, 2006. At the interview, the claims were discussed. During the interview, Applicant's representative pointed out that the Doederlein et al. reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose, suggest or anticipate the elastic member supporting the piezo-electric vibration plate on the sound board for generating a sound from the sound board transmitted thereto from the piezo-electric plate via the elastic member. The Examiner acquiesce that Doederlein et al., in Fig. 9, illustrates that the metal disc 64 would be in contact with the sound board 56 and that sound is not generated from the metallic plate through the elastic member, but directly from the metallic plate to the sound board. Accordingly, the Doederlein et al. reference does not anticipate Applicant's invention.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doederlein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,641,164).

As pointed out above, the Doederlein et al. reference does not disclose sound generated via the elastic member from the piezo-electric vibration plate to the sound board. Accordingly, the Doederlein et al. reference fails to anticipate, disclose or suggest Applicant's invention.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

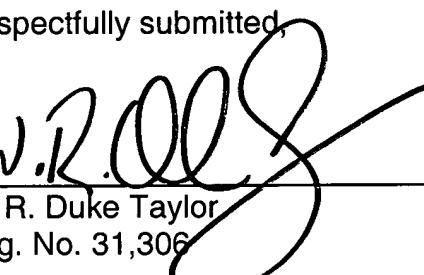
The Examiner has rejected Claims 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Doederlein et al. further in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 3,721,840).

The combination of Yamada with Doederlein et al. fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Doederlein et al. reference. Thus, the Examiner's combination would fail to render Applicant's claims obvious to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claims 3 and 5-8 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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